is a State with weak public health infrastructuer as well as poor health indicators. Kalahandi is one of the backward region of the State.

(c) The Government has launched a National Rural Health Mission, which seeks to provide effective health care to rural population throughout the country with special focus on 18 States with poor health indicators and weak health infrastructure. These 18 States include the State of Orissa.

The main objective is to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable healthcare, especially to poor and vulnerable sections of population. The Mission provides an overarching umbrella to the existing programmes of Health and Family Welfare with RCH-II being the flagship programme. The Mission aims to bring down the Infant Mortality Rate and Maternal Mortality Ratio and control all communicable diseases. Under the strategy of NRHM, the gaps in the existing scenario of rural healthcare is to be addressed through 2.5 lakh Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) to assist the Anganwadi Worker and ANM at village level to make the increased health services accessible to the rural people of the country. It is also proposed to upgrade CHCs to the level of India Public Health Standards (IPHS). NRHM has been launched for a period of 7 years (2005-2012) i.e. for two years of Tenth Plan and full Eleventh Plan.

Free treatment to poor people by private hospitals

2508. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:
SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hon'ble Delhi High Court has directed that it is mandatory for private hospitals to provide free treatment to poor patients;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to issue directives to all private hospitals in other parts of the country to follow suit; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Delhi High Court *vide* its Order dated 07.02.2006 in WP(C) No. 2866/2002 has directed the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi to issue directions to all such private hospitals and nursing homes who have been allotted land at concessional rates that Notice Board in Hindi and English be put up at prominent places indicating that they are providing free treatment to the poor and weaker sections of the society. The Court has also directed such hospitals to give publicity in this regard in prominent Hindi Newspapers. The Court has further directed that such private hospitals should provide treatment to the poor without insisting on a B.P.L. (Below Poverty Line) Card and only a signed declaration that his or her income is less than Rs. 2000/- per month should be taken, which of course will be subject to verification. However, the patient will not be denied treatment pending verification of the monthly income.

(c) and (d) Health being a State subject, it is for the respective State Government to consider issuing of such directives to the private hospitals under their jurisdiction.

Homoeopathic Dispensaries in Delhi

2509. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Homoeopathic hospitals and dispensaries functioning under CGHS in Delhi;

(b) the number of posts of doctors in various grades, grade-wise, sanctioned as on 1st April, 2005 and those actually employed, grade-wise at present;

(c) the reasons for shortage of Homoeopathic doctors, if any; and

(d) by when all the vacancies are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) 13 Homoeopathic dispensaries/units (3 dispensaries and 10 units) are functioning under CGHS, Delhi. There is no Homoeopathic hospital under CGHS, Delhi.